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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

COUNTRY	USSR (Altay Kray)	REPORT	50X1
SUBJECT	Vicinity of Bystryy Istok (N 52-22, E 84-24)	DATE DISTR.	23 November 1955
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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1. Attached is a copy as received 50X1

2. The following is an enlargement and clarification of the text: 50X1

Paragraph 2. Ust Pristan is Ust Charyshskaya Pristan (N 52-23, E 83-39).

Paragraph 6. Dom kultury is the House of Culture.

Paragraph 10. There is probably a mistake in the price of sausage, which is abnormally high.

Paragraph 13. Lesnik is a forester.

Paragraph 16. (4) Selmash (Vsesoyuznoye Obedineniye Selskokhozyaystvennogo Mashinostroyeniya) is the All-Union Agricultural Machinery Construction Association.

(8) Kozhkombinat (Kozhevennyy Kombinat), a leather combine, is probably meant instead of Kozhsindicat.

(16) Selmagazin (probably selskiy magazin) is the village store.

(32) Prodmagazin (prodovolstvennyy magazin) is the food store or warehouse.

(34) Za Vysokiy Urozhay is translated For a Good Harvest.

(38) Promkombinat (promyshlennyy kombinat) is an industrial combine.

(43) Zagotzerno (Vsesoyuznaya Kontora po Zagotovke i Sbytu Zerna) is the All-Union Office for Storage and Distribution of Grain.

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STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI	#	AEC								
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COUNTRY USSR (Altay Kray)

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General Description (See sketch of Bystryy Istok on Page 8)

The majority of the buildings in Bystryy Istok were single-family detached dwellings averaging two rooms per house. Only three or four such dwellings were constructed of stone and one was built of a poured mixture of cement, sand, and coal cinders; all other buildings were made of lumber or logs. The only two-story buildings were the post office, the fire station, the RayIsposKom, the seven-year and ten-year schools, and the mill; all others were single-story. There was one single-story stone building housing the sugar factory. Private dwellings were heated by wood or coal stoves. Fuel was available generally only to those who worked for the sugar refinery. None of the private dwellings were equipped with running water. The more fortunate individuals had hand pumps within their homes, while others had wells, usually about 10 meters deep, out in the yard. The only houses which had electricity were those constructed in close proximity to the power lines. Source could not estimate the age of Bystryy Istok but stated that it was an old settlement and that his grandfather had been born there.

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The town of Bystryy Istok was a nucleated settlement extending approximately two kilometers north and south from the bazaar to the MTS (Machine Tractor Station), and five kilometers from east to west. There were no particular sections devoted to industrial sites. The primary transportation route was the Ob River. The basic truck transportation in Bystryy Istok was handled by the fleet of trucks of the sugar factory, which also carried passengers on their runs. Although all other industrial sites had their own trucking, the Ob River provided the main traffic route. The paved streets were in good condition whereas the dirt roads were rutted and in poor condition. Other than truck traffic there was no motorized traffic in or through town. Only two passenger automobiles in town, both of them Moskvich-700s. One belonged to the director of the mill and the other to a teacher. All river freight was carried by cutters (katerya). One vessel, the gas-powered vessel ZYUD, carried passengers on the Ob River from Biysk (N 52-35, E 85-14) to Ust Pristan, (approximately N 52-25, E 83-35). There were also "very many" bicycles in Bystryy Istok.

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- (46) Sel'po (Selskiy Potrebutelskiy Kooperativ) is the Rural Consumers' Cooperative.

Sketch 1. For Ust Yancy read Ust Anuy (N 52-25, E 84-48).

For Verkho-Anuysk read Verkhneye Anuyskoye (N 52-12, E 84-34).

For Verkho-Zernoye read Verkhneye Ozerneye (N 52-19, E 84-16).

For Novo Pokrovskoye read Novopokrovka (N 52-13, E 84-25).

For Staro-Smolenskaya read Smolenskoye (N 52-18, E 85-04).

Sketch 2. Perevloks should read pereuloki (lanes).

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3. Bystryy Istok had its own electric power plant which generated electricity for the town and for most of the industrial sites in the vicinity. The power plant used a mixture of sawdust and naphtha for fuel and was located in the mill. The sugar factory and MTS had their own electric power plants, and [] the dehydration plant was getting its own power plant as well. 50X1
4. [] the electric power in Bystryy Istok as being two-phase, 200 volt. Although all enterprises had electricity, only a few private dwellings close to the power lines were so equipped. The power lines were located as follows: Along the north side of Sovetskaya ulitsa, south along the east side of Leninskaya ulitsa, north along the west side of Oktyabrskaya, and south along the east side of Krasnoarmeyskaya ulitsa. The power lines were spaced 50 meters apart. Street lighting existed only on the paved streets with a bulb hung on every other pole. The lighting system was put into operation in the latter part of 1953. 50X1
5. [] there were about 50 private telephones in Bystryy Istok. All enterprises had their own switchboard and internal nets. The telephone exchange was located on the second floor of the post office building and a telegraph office was located in the same building. Source never had occasion to use either the telephone or telegraph facilities. 50X1
5. Bystryy Istok was equipped with a wire-radio net emanating from the radiouzel (radio center). [] no private radios, but [] there were some crystal sets. In the Dom kultury there was a battery-powered receiver which utilized the BAS-80 batteries. 50X1 50X1
7. The fire fighting team in Bystryy Istok was not mechanized. It consisted of two or three barrel wagons each pulled by a team of two horses. Two gasoline-driven water pumps discharged the water. In the event of fire, the fire crew would gallop to the scene and would set up their equipment. Since each barrel had an opening at the top, a length of hose would be dropped into it with the other end connected to the pump. The main hose would then be connected to the pump and the pump put into operation. The fire fighting crew did not wear special uniforms. Alongside the fire house there was an observation tower approximately 15 meters high with an enclosed platform. This tower was supposed to be manned 24 hours a day by a fire-watcher, but rarely was.
8. The women of Bystryy Istok dressed plainly and did not use cosmetics. Occasionally, the secretaries in the RayIspolKom polished their nails and prettied themselves up but then people generally made jokes about it. The men of the town were clean-shaven. Neckties were normally not worn and, particularly on a week day, would subject the wearer to attention. When local young men wore ties, they became the subjects of ridicule by their friends for dressing up. Most of the men smoked makhorka; a few smoked cigarettes. Pipes were generally used by the elders. Source knew of only two prostitutes in town: one lived in the western outskirts of town and the other, a Bulgarian, lived in the non-Russian section east of Leninskaya ulitsa.
- [] the population of Bystryy Istok in 1953 [] about 8,000. The population was predominantly sedentary. However, prior to World War II so many people left Bystryy Istok that many of the homes were boarded up by the owners and left vacant. The predominant ethnic composition of the town was Great Russian. This group [] lived in the built-up section of town west of Leninskaya ulitsa. East of Leninskaya ulitsa were the persons who were deported during the war and who only worked on the kolkhoz. The group was made up of Bulgarians, Volga Germans, Moldavians, and Altaytsi. 50X1 50X1 50X1
- [] the following prices [] prevailing in Bystryy Istok during the period 1951 to 1953: 50X1
- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Bread (bakery) | - 5 ruble lots |
| Wheat, flour (bazaar) | - 1.70 rubles per kg to 1 January. After 1 January
2 to 5 rubles per kg |

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Sweet butter (bazaar)	- 35 to 40 rubles per kg
Potatoes (bazaar)	- one ruble per bucket; 5 to 20 rubles per bucket prior to spring planting,
Sugar (store-rarely available)	- 10 to 10.50 rubles per kg
Milk (neighbors)	- three rubles per liter
Coffee	- not available
Shirt, poor grade, linen	- 90 rubles
Shoes, rubber soled	- 65 rubles
Shoes, rubber soled, canvas top	- 40 rubles
Suit (half wool)	- 220 rubles
Suit (cotton)	- 160 to 170 rubles
Cheapest material, used for underwear	- 8 rubles per meter
Haircut	- 3 rubles
Shave	- 2 rubles
Sausage (only type of meat available in store)	- 80 rubles per kg
Pork (bazaar)	- 24 to 28 rubles per kg
Beef (bazaar)	- 12 to 14 rubles per kg
Mutton (bazaar)	- 18 rubles per kg
Eggs	- 5 to 6 rubles per 10
Geese	- 25 rubles each
Chickens	- 8 to 10 rubles each
Vodka (stores)	- 42 to 45 rubles per liter

there was some kind of a booklet which permitted preferential buying for the possessor of the booklet. As an example the case where some valenki (felt boots) were placed on sale at 140 rubles for men's and 170 rubles for women's. Although people queued up to buy the valenki, only those individuals possessing these booklets were able to purchase them.

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Area Surrounding Bystryy Istok (See Memory Sketch of Area on page 7)

The area surrounding Bystryy Istok to the east, south, and west consisted of fields devoted to the cultivation of wheat, oats, and rye. The land was relatively flat with knolls beginning some 10 to 12 kilometers to the south. There were no large areas devoted to pasture, although each kolkhoz had its own cows as did many of the villagers of Bystryy Istok. In addition to the basic crops grown, each home had 35/100 of a hectare of ground which included the area for the house, barn, outhouse, and garden.

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The land was fertile and the produce grown included tomatoes, corn, cucumbers, potatoes, cabbages, beets, etc. Some of the inhabitants also raised chickens. North of Bystryy Istok across the Ob River was a dense pine forest (bor) which approximated a taiga. This forest began at the river's banks and stretched north, east, and west along the river. The forest was subdivided into kvartaly (squares), each under the jurisdiction of a lesnik. These lesniki were responsible for their kvartal and acted as forest rangers. Each family was allowed ten cubic meters of firewood per year. To obtain firewood, the family representative applied for and obtained permission to cut lumber. He then presented the paper authorizing him to have the lumber to the lesnik. Many individuals would obtain a permit for two to three cubic meters of firewood at a time and then would bribe the lesnik with money or vodka and thus obtain a larger quantity of firewood.

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[redacted] the kvartaly were "very large". The predominant trees in the forests were pines, but there were also many other fir trees, birch, and spruce. The forest also consisted of tangled undergrowth. Edible wild plants, including strawberries, raspberries, and currants abounded, particularly on islands in the Ob River. The only comparatively isolated areas within the area were in the forest across the Ob River from Bystryy Istok.

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The forest area north of the river abounded with wild-life: badgers, rabbits, foxes, wolves, bears, and deer. Wild fowl, ducks, and geese were hunted at the lakes and ponds which stretched along the foothills south of the town. Although many fish, including carp, pike, pikarina, and eelpout, were found in the Ob, there was no fishing industry. Fishing was generally done by the old men of the town.

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[redacted] no poisonous insects but described two poisonous snakes. One was the strelka (arrow), a yellow-colored snake with a black stripe down its back. This snake lived in tall grass and in the ruins of buildings. The other, [redacted] referred to as the ognyanka, a snake allegedly found on islands in the Ob River. It was rumored in the Bystryy Istok area that wherever the snake crawled over grass, its trail was marked by "burned grass". The ognyanka's bite was allegedly fatal, and it was popularly believed that the snake pursued a man by "leaps and bounds" and that the only escape was to run in the direction of the sun so that the sun's rays would blind it.

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At Bystryy Istok, the Ob River was about five kilometers wide. [redacted] the river as having a "deep" channel but could not estimate its depth.

[redacted] There were no other rivers in the vicinity of Bystryy Istok. The southern bank of the Ob, east of the pier at Bystryy Istok, was shallow and had a sandy beach. East of this point the banks rose three meters above the water level. During the fall, when the river was at its lowest, the ZYUD could not tie up at the pier because of the shallow water but had to move to another location. The river was covered by ice and by the first week of November it would support the weight of a man. It began to thaw and was dangerous to walk on towards the end of April.

On page 8 of this report is a town plan of Bystryy Istok. Following is a legend to the town plan. Numbers in parentheses refer to numbers indicated on the town plan.

- 1) Vegetable dehydration factory (sushilnyy zavod)
- 2) Mill
- 3) Agricultural machinery store
- 4) Store (selmash) for vehicles, parts, and equipment
- 5) Sugar factory
- 6) Militia station
- 7) Fire station

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- (8) Leather syndicate (KoshSindikats)
- (9) Procurator's office (Prokuratura)
- (10) Nursery
- (11) Post office
- (12) Peoples' Court (Narsud)
- (13) Artel
- (14) Bakery
- (15) Quarters for out-of-town students (Internat)
- (16) Store Administrations (Selmagazin)
- (17) Dom Kultury
- (18) Savings bank (SberKassa)
- (19) Rayvovoyenkomat
- (20) Bazaar
- (21) Middle School (10 year)
- (22) Brick Factory, $1\frac{1}{2}$ kilometers from town
- (23) Four-year School
- (24) Out-patient office (ambulatoriya)
- (25) Rayon hospital
- (26) Cemetery
- (27) Machine Tractor Station (MTS)
- (28) Office of the kolkhos Publication Iakra
- (29) Rayon radio center
- (30) Selsovet
- (31) Bank (Gosbank)
- (32) Food store (prod-magazin)
- (33) Barber shop
- (34) Office (redaktsiya) of publication Za Vysokiy Droshtar
- (35) RayIspolKom
- (36) Veterinary School
- (37) Road-maintenance building (dorstroy)
- (38) Promkombinat - included a number of small shops for watch repair, tailoring, engine repair, cabinet making, photography, and musical instrument repair).

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- (39) Store
- (40) Seven-year school
- (41) Fall mooring pier
- (42) "Red October" Artel
- (43) ZagotZerno (grain storage and distribution)
- (44) Pier office
- (45) Pier
- (46) Selpo office (consumer goods)
- (47) Tea room
- (48) Rayon store (raymagazin)
- (49) Duty store - (deszhurnyy magazin) open nights only
- (50) Butter factory (maslozavod)

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621.42
855.1
754.22
756.121
754.3
753.41
753.42
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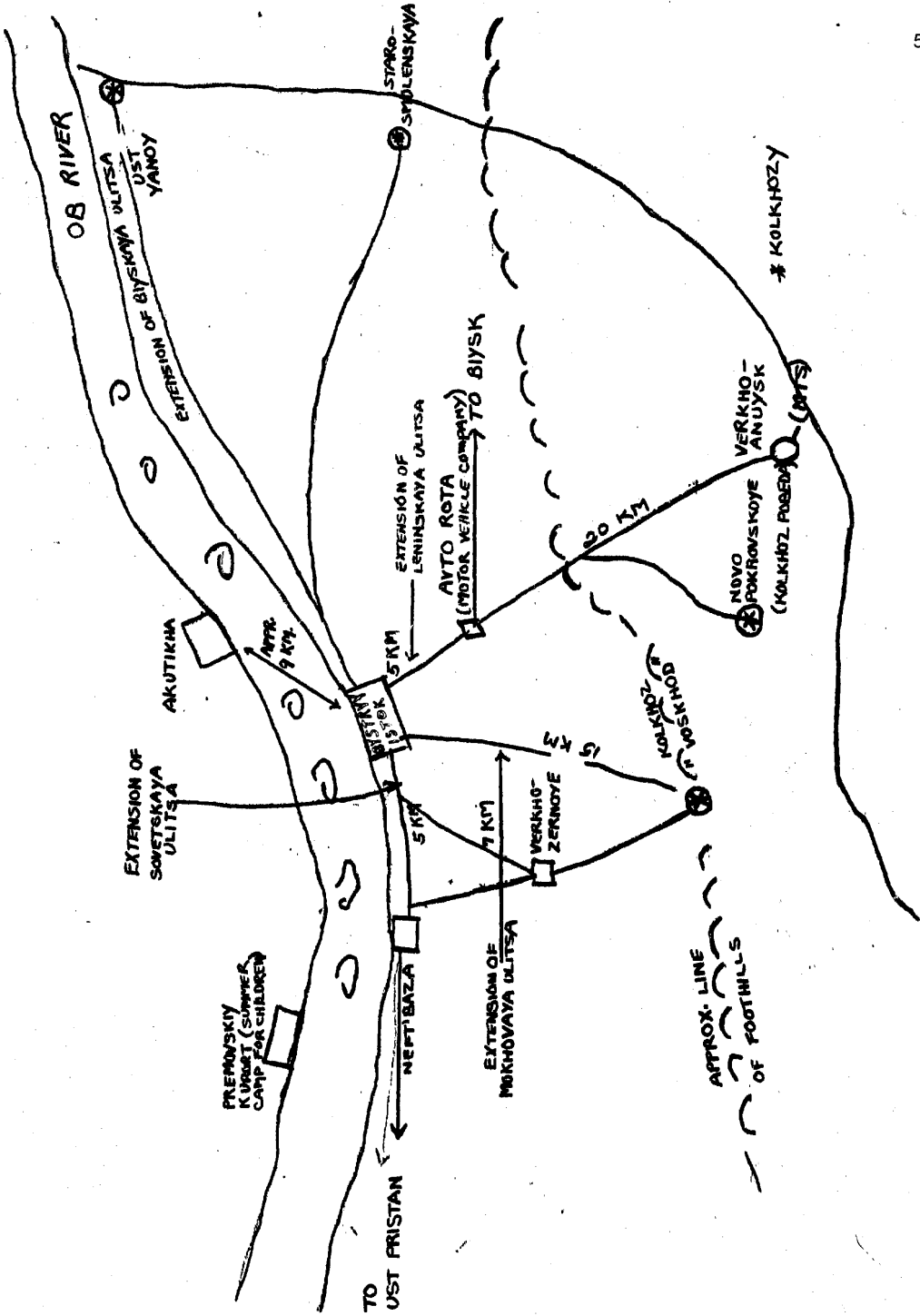
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Sketch I

Sketch of Bystryy Istok Vicinity (Not to Scale)

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